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the point of unscholarliness. The specialist in the history of any system of writing will derive little from the book, yet as a work of general reference it forms a valuable addition to any library. Doubtful points are never forced into a theory; there is no dogmatizing; clearness, balance, and interest pervade the treatment. The work seems thoroughly accurate.

One third of the volume is devoted to picture writing, a third to ideographic and mixed systems, a third to the alphabets, much as in Clodd's booklet. The post-Phoenician alphabets of Asia receive bare mention. A modern book of the scope and quality of Isaac Taylor's still remains a need.

A. L. KROEBER

NORTH AMERICA

Zuñi Breadstuff. FRANK HAMILTON CUSHING. (Indian Notes and Monographs, vol. 8.) New York: Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, 1920, 673 pp.

This republication of the greatest of Cushing's works makes available the series issued in *The Millstone* in 1884-85, and heretofore accessible only in three or four complete copies. Genius and phantast, child and amazing observer, Cushing was at his best when he could subdue his imagination to his eyes and ears; and that he has done here. The book fairly reeks of Zuñi. Take the little conversation on the first page, rendered thus:

Meal, soft corn-flour, and good water equally I mix; then stirring, red-pepper, salt, and suet I put in, into husks I roll this, into an oven all-place shutting the hole; time passed, I take them out. Now then, for eating they are ready.

This is absolutely literal; and the Zuñi text is beyond cavil.

Formal organization of treatment is as wanting as one expects from Cushing; but there is full compensation in the vividness of the narrations, the pregnant anecdotes, the interspersed myths, rituals, and pictures of social life. Possibly there holds of this volume, too, what vitiates so much of Cushing's work as science: that one must himself know the people to distinguish what is Zuñi and what is Cushing. But to the reviewer at least there seems to be no piece of writing that renders so complete and true and powerful an impression of Zuñi as *Breadstuff*.

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